

CLAIMS

The following is a listing of all claims in the application with their status and the text for all active and withdrawn claims:

1-16. (canceled)

17. (amended) A method for answering a call made to a mobile phone, comprising:
observing the Caller ID display, by the receiving party, to determine whether or not to accept an incoming call, and to aid in the decision of what action to take in processing the call;

optionally pressing a sequence of numerical buttons on said mobile phone, performed by the receiving party, the function to be initiated by said sequence of numerical button presses to be interpreted according to what function key is subsequently pressed;

optionally pressing a function key on said mobile phone, performed by the receiving party the action initiated by said function key being influenced by said previously entered sequence of numerical button presses, and determining how said incoming call is to be answered and processed;

and where said function key initiates a special courtesy mode feature on said mobile phone where a message is played to the calling party indicating in effect that the calling party should wait for a period of time, and that the receiving party will take their call shortly and/or will relocate to a location where they are better able to receive the call, said period of time defined by said previously entered sequence of numerical button presses.

18. (original) The method of Claim 17 where, if no sequence of numerical button presses has been entered prior to pressing said function key, the message played for the calling party is in effect that the receiving party will take their call shortly and/or the receiving party will relocate in order to be able to better receive their call, with no time period specified.

19. (amended) A method for answering a call made to a mobile phone, comprising:
observing the Caller ID display, by the receiving party, to determine whether or
not to accept an incoming call, and to aid in the decision of what action to take in
processing the call;

optionally pressing a sequence of numerical buttons on said mobile phone,
performed by the receiving party, the function to be initiated by said sequence of
numerical button presses to be interpreted according to what function key is subsequently
pressed;

optionally pressing a function key on said mobile phone, performed by the
receiving party, the action initiated by said function key being influenced by said
previously entered sequence of numerical button presses, and determining how said
incoming call is to be answered and processed;

and where said function key initiates a voicemail greeting feature on said mobile
phone where a message is played to the calling party indicating in effect that the
receiving party will call them back after a specific period of time, followed by sending
them to voicemail, said period of time defined by said previously entered sequence of
numerical button presses.

20. (original) The method of Claim 19 where, if no sequence of numerical button
presses has been entered prior to pressing said function key, the calling party will be sent
to voicemail with a normal or special voicemail greeting that does not mention a specific
call-back timeframe.

21. (amended) A method for answering a call made to a mobile phone, comprising:
observing the Caller ID display, by the receiving party, to determine whether or
not to accept an incoming call, and to aid in the decision of what action to take in
processing the call;

optionally pressing a sequence of numerical buttons on said mobile phone,
performed by the receiving party, the function of said sequence of numerical button
presses to be interpreted according to what function key is subsequently pressed;

optionally pressing one of two function keys on said mobile phone, performed by the receiving party, the action initiated by each of said function keys being influenced by said previously entered sequence of numerical button presses, and where one of said function keys initiates a courtesy mode function including a message played for the calling party in effect stating that the receiving party will take their call shortly and/or the receiving party is relocating in order to be able to better receive their call, and the other of said function keys initiates a mode that includes sending the caller to voicemail.

22. (original) The method of Claim 21 where said two function keys are soft keys whose functions may change from moment to moment.

23. (amended) A method for providing an indication of an incoming call on a flip-type mobile phone, including:

upon opening the flip-type mobile phone, the call is not answered, however any audible ring indication is terminated ~~or reduced in volume~~, and a silent ring indication is provided.

24. (amended) The method of Claim 23 where upon terminating any audible ring indication ~~or reducing its volume~~, a silent vibrating ring indication is initiated provided.

25. (amended) The method of Claim 23 where upon terminating any audible ring indication, ~~including a vibrating indication that is audible~~, a flashing icon on the display of said mobile phone ~~continues to~~ provides a ring indication.

26-51. (canceled)

52. (new) The method of claim 23 where upon terminating any audible ring indication, a flashing icon on the display of said mobile phone and a vibrating ring indication are both provided to effect a continuing indication of an incoming call.

53. (new) The method of Claim 23 further including:

extending the amount of time any silent ring indications persist before the caller is automatically sent to voicemail if no action is taken by the receiving party.

54. (new) A method for providing an indication of an incoming call a mobile phone, comprising:

designating a button or set of buttons such that an incoming call is processed when said button or set of buttons are pressed; and

causing the termination of any audible ring indication upon pressing any buttons on said mobile phone except said designated button or set of buttons; and

providing a silent ring indication.

55. (new) The method of Claim 54 where upon terminating any audible ring indication, a vibrating ring indication is provided.

56. (new) The method of Claim 54 where upon terminating any audible ring indication, a flashing icon on the display of said mobile phone provides a ring indication.

57. (new) The method of claim 54 where upon terminating any audible ring indication, a flashing icon on the display of said mobile phone and a vibrating ring indication are both provided to effect a continuing indication of an incoming call.

58. (new) The method of Claim 54 further including:

extending the amount of time any silent ring indications persist before the caller is automatically sent to voicemail if no action is taken by the receiving party.

59. (new) A method for answering a call made to a flip-type mobile phone, comprising:

opening the flip-type mobile phone, performed by the receiving party, wherein the call is not answered, however any audible ring indication is terminated and a silent ring indication is provided; and

observing the Caller ID display on said mobile phone, performed by the receiving party, to aid in the decision of what action to take in processing the call;

optionally activating a special courtesy answering mode feature on said mobile phone, performed by the receiving party, wherein a message is played to the calling party indicating in effect that the calling party should wait for a period of time, and that the receiving party will take their call shortly and/or will relocate to a location where they are better able to receive the call.

60. (new) The method of Claim 59 further including:

extending the amount of time any silent ring indications persist before the caller is automatically sent to voicemail if no action is taken by the receiving party.

61. (new) A method for answering a call made to a mobile phone, comprising designating a button or set of buttons such that an incoming call is processed when said button or set of buttons are pressed; and

causing the termination of any audible ring indication upon pressing any buttons on said mobile phone except said designated button or set of buttons; and

providing a silent ring indication upon the termination of any audible ring indication; and

observing the Caller ID display on said mobile phone, performed by the receiving party, to aid in the decision of what action to take in processing the call;

optionally activating a special courtesy answering mode feature on said mobile phone, performed by the receiving party, wherein a message is played to the calling party indicating in effect that the calling party should wait for a period of time, and that the receiving party will take their call shortly and/or will relocate to a location where they are better able to receive the call.

62. (new) The method of Claim 61 further including:
extending the amount of time any silent ring indications persist before the caller is automatically sent to voicemail if no action is taken by the receiving party.